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in communication with a corresponding tap of the plurality of taps, the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems providing packet-based point-to-multipoint communication between the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems.

7. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream DSL modems are in a packet-switched network.

12

8. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are in a cell-switched network.

12. (Amended) A broadband communication system of the type utilizing xDSL packet-based technologies, the system comprising:

13

- a central office;

- an upstream xDSL modem in communication with the central office;

- a twisted pair connected to the upstream xDSL modem;

- a plurality of taps defined along the twisted pair;

- a plurality of downstream xDSL modems, each downstream xDSL modem being in communication with a corresponding tap of the plurality of taps, the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems providing packet-based point-to-multipoint communication between the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems.

15. (Amended) A broadband communication method for xDSL packet-based applications, the method comprising:

- broadcasting from a point, over a twisted pair, with an upstream xDSL modem;

- receiving at a plurality of points with a plurality of downstream xDSL modems, each downstream xDSL modem being in communication with a corresponding tap of a plurality of taps defined along the twisted pair, the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems providing packet-based point-to-multipoint communication between the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems.

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17. (Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are in a packet-switched network.

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18. (Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are in a cell-switched network.

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